



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

20 September 2001

The Honorable Bob Stump  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0303

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As required by Title 1, Chapter 1 of the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Appropriations Act (P.L. 106-246, 114 Stat. 511, July 13, 2000), I hereby recertify that, at present, both the integrity and accessibility of the Vieques range are uninterrupted, and that trespassing and other intrusions on the range have ceased. The last statutory certification was provided to the Congressional Defense Committees on June 22, 2001.

Since the June recertification, the range has continued to be available for training consistent with terms of the Presidential Directive of January 31, 2000. However, the Theodore Roosevelt Battle Group training evolutions in June and August were successful only because of extremely aggressive and comprehensive multi-agency security actions. The JFK Battle Group training, scheduled for later this month, is already requiring similar security efforts. The level of protests, attempted incursions, and some isolated successful incursions has remained consistently high since the June certification. Specifically, 68 and 65 trespassers were detained during the June and August exercises, respectively. Additionally, during this training, operations had to be stopped periodically for trespassers entering the Live Impact Area.

In accordance with P.L. 106-246, I will continue to update you on the status of our operations on the Vieques range. Similar letters have been sent to Chairpersons Inouye, Byrd, Feinstein, Levin, Hobson, Young, and Lewis. As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gordon R. England", is written over a rectangular stamp. The stamp contains the text "Gordon R. England" and "Secretary of the Navy".

Gordon R. England  
Secretary of the Navy

Copy to:  
The Honorable Ike Skelton  
Ranking Minority Member (Armed Services)